

MEMORIAL MINUTE: Dr. John Albert McAnlis, D.D.S.

The Korea Mission notes with sorrow but also with all the comfort and confidence of our faith that Dr. John Albert McAnlis, D.D.S. died at Westminster Gardens, Duarte, California, on October 12, 1979. He was 82 years old. He had served his Lord for twenty-one years in Korea, from 1921 to 1941.

Under appointment by the then Board of Foreign Missions he came to Seoul and was assigned to Severance Hospital, at first in an affiliated capacity for five years. His arrival in September, 1921, was just seven months ~~years~~ later than his long-time colleague in the dental department, Dr. John L. Boots. Within a few years the dentists were treating from five to six thousand patients a year.

Dr. McAnlis was as well known outside Seoul as in the capital itself. With his famous portable drill he was always ready to dash off to country stations for emergencies as well as for the regular annual check-ups to which not all the younger members of the mission looked forward with pleasure. But when he put down his drill and took up his old steel tennis racket he had the hearts and admiration of all. To beat "Dr. Mac" either in the annual Seoul Union Tennis tournament or at Sorai Beach was an achievement all aspired to but few achieved.

Early in 1941 as war neared he took his portable unit to the Philippines, ministering to many of the mission stations in the islands. After Pearl Harbor he was interned at the infamous Santo Tomas camp. Three years later, in February 1945, he was freed along with a number of other Korea missionaries in the almost miraculous liberation of the camp by advancing United States troops, and on Good Friday, March 1945, arrived home in the United States. He resigned from missionary service in 1946 and established a highly successful dental practice in Pasadena, California.

His wife, Florence Guthrie McAnlis died in Pasadena. Later he married an old friend of Korea days, Mrs. Hermie Anderson, and he is survived by his widow and by three sons, Donald, Robert and Charles. The Mission is grateful to God for the life and ministry of this colleague and friend who all his life worked for others and for his Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Hugh Moffett
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